

REMARKS

Claims 1-6, 8-9, 13, 15, 18 and 22-23 are currently pending in the present application, following withdrawal of claims 10-12, 14, 16-17, 19-21 and 24-25 from consideration as a consequence of the Restriction/Election Requirement of December 12, 2003.

In response to the After-Final Amendment filed on December 3, 2004, the Examiner indicated in the Advisory Action mailed December 20, 2004 that claims 1-6, 8-12 and 14-21 would be allowable if submitted in a timely amendment canceling the non-allowable claims.

The Examiner's indication that the above claims contain allowable subject matter is greatly appreciated. In order to place these claims into condition for allowance, the Applicants have canceled withdrawn claims 24-25, without prejudice to the subject matter contained therein.

The final issue is the status of claim 23. In the After-Final Amendment filed on December 3, 2004, the Applicants intended to amend claim 23 into allowable form in the same manner as the other pending claims. The Applicants have presented this amendment in the present Supplemental After-Final Amendment, and respectfully request this claim be allowed along with claims 1-6, 8-12 and 14-21. If, however, the Examiner does not allow this claim, the Applicants hereby authorize entry of an Examiner's Amendment to cancel claim 23, without prejudice to the subject matter therein, in the event cancellation of claim 23 is the only obstacle preventing issuance of a Notice of Allowance.

CONCLUSION

The Applicants respectfully request entry of the requested amendments and issuance of a Notice of Allowance for claims 1-6, 8-12, 14-21 and 23.

If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #658.49678CO).

Respectfully submitted,

December 27, 2004


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